



SCASA Affiliates

Superintendents

Secondary Principals

Middle Level Principals

Elementary Principals

Career and Technical
Education Directors

Adult Education
Directors

District Personnel
Administrators

Education Specialist
Administrators

Instructional Leaders

Higher Education Deans

Press Release

Contact: April Griffin
(803) 798-8380, april@scasa.org

**For Immediate Release
June 30, 2022**

South Carolina Education Leader Selected for Lifetime Achievement Award

Columbia, SC—Four school leaders from across the state have been selected by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) as 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award winners. This year, Mr. Timothy Hopkins, Deputy Superintendent for Kershaw County Schools; Dr. David O'Shields, Superintendent of Laurens District 56; Dr. Kappy Steck, former Principal of Forest Lake Elementary in Richland School District Two; and the Honorable Molly Spearman, South Carolina Superintendent of Education, were all selected to receive this award for their contributions to education in South Carolina.

Each year SCASA selects exemplars of educational leadership to receive the SCASA Lifetime Achievement Award. These leaders have dedicated their lives to educating South Carolina's children, serving their communities, and providing an example for those who aspire to lead.

State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman completed her Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and began her 42-year career as a music teacher in Maryland. Returning to South Carolina four years later, Superintendent Spearman served as a music teacher for an additional 14 years before moving into administration as assistant principal in her home district of Saluda County. Feeling led to serve South Carolina in the General Assembly, Superintendent Spearman was elected in 1993 to serve as State Representative for District 39 which spans from Saluda to Gilbert, a position she held for six years. In 1999 Superintendent Spearman became a deputy superintendent for the South Carolina Department of Education under Inez Tenenbaum serving as legislative liaison and later chief of staff. In 2004, she was named SCASA Executive Director and served until 2014 when she was elected as the State Superintendent of Education. During her time at SCASA, membership grew by over 50%; she expanded SCASA's advocacy impact on behalf of public education; brought greater quality to SCASA's programs, meetings, and conferences; and worked with the Superintendents' Affiliate to create the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

When Superintendent Spearman took the helm of South Carolina's public school system, she got to work addressing the issues in the state. She ushered in new school safety policies and best practices which later gave way to a school safety vision that includes a school resource officer, nurse, and mental health counselor in every school. The trust instilled in her by the General Assembly led to monumental raises in starting teacher pay, the highest level of state investment in public education since the Great Recession, and honest conversations about the efficiency of school districts and what needed to be done to ensure future success. Superintendent Spearman also called for the retirement of a school bus fleet that was dilapidated and unsafe—over the course of her time in office, she would secure funding to replace 4,000 of the state's 5,600 school buses with new, clean, efficient models.

In 2018, she was elected for a second term and focused on district efficiency through the sharing of services and the consolidation of small rural schools and districts with the goal of expanding student opportunities. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered schools across the nation to in-person learning. Over the next two years, Superintendent Spearman showed immense leadership and focused decision-making that prioritizes student safety and learning.

South Carolina Association of School Administrators
1 Fernandina Court, Columbia, SC 29212
scasa.org | (803) 798-8380



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Superintendents

While her accomplishments in office are many, Superintendent Spearman leaves as her legacy her humble and kind spirit, composure and grace in even the toughest circumstances, and love for teaching and learning that shines brightly anytime she enters a classroom.

Secondary Principals

The Lifetime Achievement Award selection committee uses the following criteria to choose the award recipients:

Middle Level Principals

- evidence of outstanding leadership as an educational administrator,
- a record of service and leadership as a member of SCASA and its affiliates,
- community service not directly related to the education profession, and
- service to the profession above and beyond normal job responsibilities.

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Mr. Hopkins, Dr. O'Shields, Dr. Steck, and Superintendent Spearman were honored on Wednesday, June 22, during a presentation to over 1,700 school leaders as part of the closing ceremony of the 2022 Innovative Ideas Institute, SCASA's annual conference. Each winner received a commemorative plaque presented by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators and a ring presented by Herff Jones.

District Personnel
Administrators

Education Specialist
Administrators

SCASA is the professional organization for school leaders in South Carolina, with a membership of more than 4,900. From leadership development opportunities and research to publications and legislative advocacy, SCASA's focus is to support school leaders in providing the best possible education for South Carolina's young people. As a state affiliate of three national associations for school leaders, SCASA also works on the national level.

Instructional Leaders

Higher Education Deans

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